

Historical Context: The first Europeans of the 15th century who explored the Americas were looking for a water route to Asia in order to get spices, silks and other riches. Though few explorers found a water route to Asia, their voyages led to the discovery of "new land" in the Western Hemisphere. Once it was discovered, more and more explorers continued to venture out to this New World.

Using the documents provided and your knowledge of social studies, write a well-developed essay that explains the motives (3) and consequences (1-2) of the arrival of Europeans in the Western Hemisphere.

Your essay will need

- An introduction with historical context
- A FOUR part thesis that includes three motives for exploration and at least one consequence for Native Americans
- FOUR body paragraphs, each starting with a body paragraph that directly addressed one of your thesis points.
- Use of at least one document for each motive and consequence as support for your topic sentence and paragraph information. (Doc 11).
- Analysis of at least three documents – (Mr. Jones thinks homework is a good idea because he is a professional educator and has experience in observing how students best learn)
- A brief conclusion that summarizes the essay content.

Document 1

"The lands beyond the sea hold vast fortunes for those with the courage and bravery to accept the challenge. A new world awaits the man whose longing for the voyage to discover and claim new lands is overcome by nothing but his eagerness to depart this land."

- Spanish explorer, 1548

Document 2

"The pattern established at the outset has remained to this day, and the Spaniards still do nothing save tear the natives to shreds, murder them and inflict upon them untold misery, suffering and distress, tormenting, harrying and persecuting them mercilessly." According to Las Casas, atrocities continued unabated in the Americas, even half a century after the discovery."

~ An excerpt from *Historia de las Indias*, written 1550- by Bartolome de las Casas, a Spanish priest in the New World

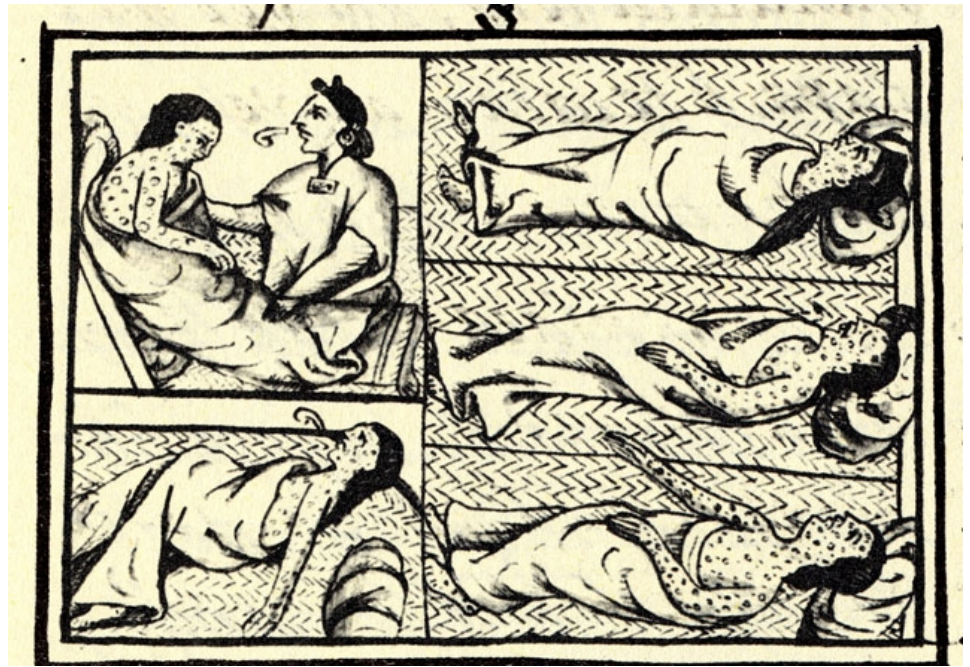
Document 3

"A world awaits the Christianizing efforts of the Church in a land far away where heathens [non-Christians] live a barbarous life with no regard to the laws that guide all good Christian men. We will rescue these lost souls and win them to the Holy Church."

- Spanish Cardinal Trilini, 1598

Document 4

Source: An illustrated panel appearing in a 16th-century compendium of materials and information on Aztec and Nahua history collected by Fray Bernardino de Sahagún. The drawing shows Nahuas infected with smallpox disease

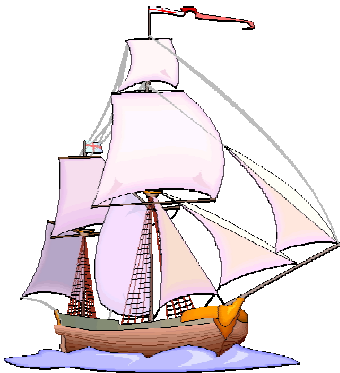


Document 5

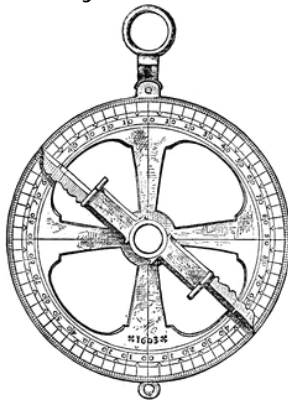
“Spices, precious gems, and increases of immeasurable loads will make the pockets of the merchants grow full as luxuries from new lands are brought here in mass from distant lands.”
- Portuguese merchant, 1512

Document 6

15th and 16th century Advances in European Technology



Caravel



Astrolabe



Magnetic compass

Source: High School Textbook *History of the World*